IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 7-8 and 20 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 1, 9, and 15 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A water electrolytic apparatus comprising a plurality of water electrolytic cells each having a solid polymer electrolyte membrane, ~~an~~ a plate shaped anode, and a plate shaped cathode, wherein the anode and the cathode ~~being plate shaped and~~ are arranged on opposite sides of and separated from said electrolyte membrane by a current collector, respectively, said water electrolytic cells being developed on a hypothetical plane and electrically connected in series to one another, wherein each of said water electrolytic cell, said solid polymer electrolyte membrane, said anode, and said cathode are developed on respective hypothetical planes that extend parallel to one another and said anode and cathode have a uniform thickness throughout.

2. (Original) A water electrolytic apparatus according to claim 1, further including a solar cell serving as a power supply for said plurality of water electrolytic cells.

3. (Original) A water electrolytic apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the anodes of the plurality of water electrolytic cells are disposed on one hypothetical plane, and the cathodes of the plurality of water electrolytic cells are disposed on another hypothetical plane, and a single water/oxygen flow path and a single hydrogen flow path are shared by the plurality of water electrolytic cells.

4. (Original) A water electrolytic apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said solar cell is of a panel shape and superposed on said plurality of water electrolytic cells.

5. (Original) A water electrolytic apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said solar cell is of a panel shape and superposed on said plurality of water electrolytic cells.

6. (Previously Added) A water electrolytic apparatus according to claim 1, wherein each of said water electrolytic cells is laminated.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A water electrolytic apparatus comprising a plurality of water electrolytic cells each having a solid polymer electrolyte membrane, ~~an~~ a plate shaped anode, and a plate shaped cathode, wherein the anode and the cathode ~~being plate-shaped and~~ are arranged on opposite sides of and separated from said electrolyte membrane by a current collector, respectively, said water electrolytic cells being developed on a hypothetical plane and electrically connected in series to one another, wherein said solid polymer electrolyte membranes, said anodes, and said cathodes of said water electrolytic cells are developed on respective common hypothetical planes that extend parallel to one another and said anode and cathode have a uniform thickness throughout.

10. (Previously Added) A water electrolytic apparatus according to claim 9, further including a solar cell serving as a power supply for said plurality of water electrolytic cells.

11. (Previously Added) A water electrolytic apparatus according to claim 9, wherein a single water/oxygen flow path and a single hydrogen flow path are shared by the plurality of water electrolytic cells.

12. (Previously Added) A water electrolytic apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said solar cell is of a panel shape and superposed on said plurality of water electrolytic cells.

13. (Previously Added) A water electrolytic apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said solar cell is of a panel shape and superposed on said plurality of water electrolytic cells.

14. (Previously Added) A water electrolytic apparatus according to claim 9, wherein each of said water electrolytic cells is laminated.

15. (Currently Amended) A water electrolytic apparatus comprising a plurality of water electrolytic cells each having a solid polymer electrolyte membrane, ~~an~~ a plate shaped anode, and a plate shaped cathode, wherein the anode and the cathode are ~~being~~ arranged on opposite sides of and separated from said electrolyte membrane by a current collector, respectively, each of said water electrolytic cells ~~being~~ is developed on a common hypothetical plane such that each of said water electrolytic cells are disposed side by side and electrically connected in series to one another.

16. (Previously Added) A water electrolytic apparatus according to claim 15, further including a solar cell serving as a power supply for said plurality of water electrolytic cells.

17. (Previously Added) A water electrolytic apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the anodes of the plurality of water electrolytic cells are disposed on one hypothetical plane, and the cathodes of the plurality of water electrolytic cells are disposed on another hypothetical plane, and a single water/oxygen flow path and a single hydrogen flow path are shared by the plurality of water electrolytic cells.

18. (Previously Added) A water electrolytic apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said solar cell is of a panel shape and superposed on said plurality of water electrolytic cells.

19. (Previously Added) A water electrolytic apparatus according to claim 15, wherein each of said water electrolytic cells is laminated.

20. (Canceled).